



(clockwise left) CAPT Karen Read, CAPT (SEL) Dana Covey, CAPT Martin Wilcox and Warrant Officer Richard Octeau preform 13 hours of surgery to save Luc Pesant.

SAVING ONE'S MOMENT IN TIME

By JOSN Jose Blanco

In the early hours of Tuesday, April 15th, members of the Hospital were called upon to make the best of desperate situation. A 35-year-old vacationing Canadian Airman, Master Cpl. Luc Pesant of Edmonton, Canada, was brought to the front gate of Camp Fairwinds, a Navy/Marine Base located near the Port-au-Prince International Airport in Haiti. Pesant had been shot eight times during a midnight robbery attempt at his wife's residence in Port-au-Prince. Having lost a great deal of blood by the time he arrived at our hospital, his chances for survival were grim.

Doctors, Nurses and Corpsman responded with over 13 hours of surgery to repair Pesant's lacerated liver and control his bleeding.

Working throughout the night, the well trained staff headed by the combined medical talents of Navy CAPT Martin Wilcox, Head Surgeon, CAPT (SEL) Dana Covey, Orthopaedic Surgeon and Commander Charles Mortensen, Anesthesiologist, managed to bring a ray of hope back into a desperate situation.

During the operation, Pesant lost 15 units of blood from his liver plus 10 units from his chest and extremity wounds. He was given 22 units of blood. He then developed a coagulopathy, which is the loss of the blood clotting mechanism. It appeared as if Pesant might bleed to death on the operating room table.

But thanks to three Canadian volunteers of the same blood type, fresh whole blood transfusions restored the coagulation mechanism sufficiently